

Response

Applicant: Andrew Harvey Barr et al.

Serial No.: 10/618,966

Filed: July 14, 2003

Docket No.: 200205324-1 (H300.202.101)

Title: SUPPORTING A SHORT PRINTED CIRCUIT CARD

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed February 3, 2005. In that Office Action, claims 1, 5-10, 14-18, 20-28, 30-34, and 37 were rejected. With this Response, claims 1-37 remain pending in the application and are presented for consideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5-10, 14-18, 20-28, 30-34, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wetherbee, U.S. Patent No. 4,068,290.

The Wetherbee Patent teaches a cantilevered circuit card guide useful with fractional width cards. In fact, it is respectfully submitted that the teaching of the Wetherbee Patent is limited to guides that are cantilevered from a connector panel of a computer. Specifically, the Wetherbee Patent teaches at column 2, lines 2-4 that the base end of guide 18 "should be located so to contact the connector block (back panel 17) when the guide is attached to it." In addition, Figure 1 of the Wetherbee Patent illustrates that the guide 18 is supported only at the back panel 17, thus the guide 18 is "cantilevered" from the back panel 17. Furthermore, the Wetherbee Patent refers to the guide as a "cantilever card guide" in the Title, the Brief Description of the Invention, the Brief Description of the Drawings, and in the Description of the Preferred Embodiments. Moreover, claim 1 of the Wetherbee Patent claims an improved cantilevered circuit card guide.

In general, the Wetherbee Patent teaches at column 2, lines 35-47 a circuit card rack including a back panel 17 and permanent card guides 10 and 11. Permanent card guides 10 and 11 support full size cards 12, and partially support fractional width cards 13-16, as received by opposing grooves (or slots) 27. However, with regard to the fractional width cards 13-16, the Wetherbee Patent teaches guides 18 and 18' employed to additionally support the fractional width cards 13-16. In particular, the guides 18 and 18' are connected to the back panel 17 and cantilevered to extend an equal distance to an unsupported edge of the fractional width card 13-16. (See e.g., Figure 1).

The guides 18 and 18' are **never** coupled to the card guides 10 and 11. Significantly, the Wetherbee Patent teaches at column 2, lines 42-44 that "connectors 22 **must** create the gaps shown to permit attachment of the guides 18 and 18'." (Emphasis added). In this

Response

Applicant: Andrew Harvey Barr et al.

Serial No.: 10/618,966

Filed: July 14, 2003

Docket No.: 200205324-1 (H300.202.101)

Title: SUPPORTING A SHORT PRINTED CIRCUIT CARD

regard, the Wetherbee Patent teaches at column 2, lines 53-57 that guide 18 is attached to back panel 17 by screws that pass through holes in back plane 17 and thread into holes 25 formed at a base end of guide 18.

Furthermore, at column 2, line 66 to column 3, line 7 the Wetherbee Patent teaches away from the use of guide 18 to span between one of the card guides 10 and 11 and an edge of a fractional width card 13-16. In particular, the Wetherbee Patent teaches: "If only a single fractional width card 13-16 is inserted in guide 18, some problem of deflections of guide 18 . . . may occur. When only a single fractional width card is employed, a blank card may be inserted between the other slot in such guide 18 and the specific slot 27 in permanent guide 10 or 11." Consequently, the Wetherbee Patent teaches that either a blank card or two of the fractional width cards 13-16 occupies the slots 27, and the card guide 18 is screwed to the back panel 17 and spans to an edge of the blank card or the fractional width cards 13-16.

In contrast, independent claims 1, 10, 18, 22, 26, and 30 of the present application require a support that spans a distance between opposing card guides of an electronic system that is not otherwise spanned by a short card. This patentably distinct difference between independent claims 1, 10, 18, 22, 16, and 30 and the Wetherbee Patent is visually apparent when Figure 1 of the Wetherbee Patent is compared to Figure 3 of the present application.

In particular, the Wetherbee Patent does not teach or suggest the limitations of independent claim 1 of a short printed circuit card having a card guide edge adapted to couple to a first card guide of an electronic system and a first edge not coupled to the electronic system, the short card support comprising a card guide end adapted to insert into a second card guide of the electronic system.

The Wetherbee Patent does not teach or suggest the limitations of independent claim 10 of a short printed circuit card assembly insertable into an electronic system comprising a printed circuit card having a card guide edge adapted to couple to a first card guide of the electronic system, and a first edge, and a card support configured to couple to the first edge of the printed circuit card, the card support including a card guide end adapted to insert into a second card guide of the electronic system.

The Wetherbee Patent does not teach or suggest the limitations of independent claim 18 of a short printed circuit card assembly inserted into an electronic system comprising a printed circuit card mechanically coupled to the electronic system on a first edge and

Response

Applicant: Andrew Harvey Barr et al.

Serial No.: 10/618,966

Filed: July 14, 2003

Docket No.: 200205324-1 (H300.202.101)

Title: SUPPORTING A SHORT PRINTED CIRCUIT CARD

mechanically and electrically coupled to the electronic system on a connector edge, and a printed card support comprising a card guide end inserted into a card guide of the electronic system opposite the first edge, a card receptor end coupled with a second edge of the printed circuit card, and a support span connecting the card guide end and the card receptor end.

The Wetherbee Patent does not teach or suggest the limitations of independent claim 22 of a short printed circuit card having a card guide edge adapted to couple to a first card guide and a first edge, and a short card support comprising a card guide end adapted to insert into a second card guide of the electronic system, and means for selectively positioning a card receptor end for reception of the first edge of the short printed circuit card.

The Wetherbee Patent does not teach or suggest the limitations of independent claim 26 of a method of supporting a second edge of a short printed circuit card with a short card support comprising a card receptor end removably attached to the second edge of the short printed circuit card and a card guide end adapted to removably insert into a second card guide of the electronic system, and a support span connecting the card receptor end and the card guide end.

The Wetherbee Patent does not teach or suggest the limitations of independent claim 30 of an electronic system comprising a first card guide and a second card guide opposing the first card guide, a short card inserted into the electronic system having a card guide edge coupled to the first card guide and a first edge not coupled to a card guide in the electronic system, and a support extending from the first edge of the short card into the second card guide of the electronic system.

Dependent claims 5-9 further define patentably distinct independent claim 1; dependent claims 14-17 further define patentably distinct independent claim 10; dependent claims 20-21 further define patentably distinct independent claim 18; dependent claims 23-25 further define patentably distinct independent claim 22; dependent claims 27-28 further define patentably distinct independent claim 26; and dependent claims 31-34 and 37 further define patentably distinct independent claim 30. Therefore, these dependent claims are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the rejections to claims 1, 5-10, 14-18, 20-28, 30-34, and 37 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by the Wetherbee Patent be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Response

Applicant: Andrew Harvey Barr et al.

Serial No.: 10/618,966

Filed: July 14, 2003

Docket No.: 200205324-1 (H300.202.101)

Title: SUPPORTING A SHORT PRINTED CIRCUIT CARD

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged that the previous indication of allowability of independent claims 1, 10, 18, and 22 has been withdrawn pending this Response.

In addition, it is noted with appreciation that although claims 2-4, 11-13, 19, 29, and 35-36 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, the Examiner deemed the claims allowable if rewritten in independent form to include limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4 further define patentably distinct independent claim 1, claims 11-13 further define patentably distinct independent claim 10, claim 19 further defines patentably distinct independent claim 18, claim 29 further defines patentably distinct independent claim 26, and claims 35-36 further define patentably distinct independent claim 30. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of these claims in dependent form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-37 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of claims 1-37, is respectfully requested.

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner for Patents to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025 the amount of \$110 to cover a one-month extension of time fee as set forth under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1).

Response

Applicant: Andrew Harvey Barr et al.

Serial No.: 10/618,966

Filed: July 14, 2003

Docket No.: 200205324-1 (H300.202.101)

Title: SUPPORTING A SHORT PRINTED CIRCUIT CARD

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' representative at the below-listed numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Patrick G. Billig at Telephone No. (612) 573-2003, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005 or David A. Plettner at Telephone No. (408) 447-3013, Facsimile No. (408) 447-0854. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

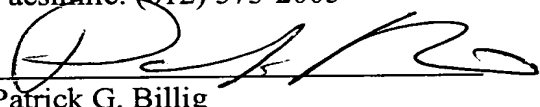
Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Harvey Barr et al.

By their attorneys,

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, PLLC
Fifth Street Towers, Suite 2250
100 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 573-2003
Facsimile: (612) 573-2005

Date: 6-3-05
PGB: kle


Patrick G. Billig
Reg. No. 38,080

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 3 day of June, 2005.

By _____


Name: Patrick G. Billig